

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

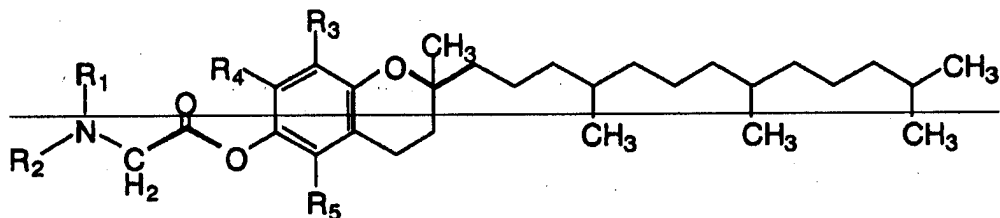
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (canceled).

15. (currently amended): A method for reducing ~~or eliminating~~ pigmentation of the skin, comprising a step of applying an effective amount of a whitening cosmetic composition to the skin after UV exposure;

wherein the whitening cosmetic composition comprises a ~~tocopherol alkylglycine ester~~ and/or a salt thereof, said ester ~~being a compound represented by a formula (1) described below:~~



wherein R₁ and R₂ independently represent a straight chain or branched alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbons or a hydrogen atom; and R₃, R₄, and R₅ independently represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; with the proviso that R₁ and R₂ do not represent a hydrogen atom at the same time, and that R₃, R₄, and R₅ do not represent methyl at the same time a component selected from the group consisting of d,l-α-tocopherol dimethylglycine ester hydrochloride, d-α-tocopherol dimethylglycine ester hydrochloride, d-γ-tocopherol dimethylglycine ester

hydrochloride, and d- δ -tocopherol dimethylglycine ester hydrochloride in an amount of 0.3-10% by mass.

16. (previously presented): A method of using a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof, comprising applying a composition containing a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof for reducing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin.

17. (previously presented): A method of using a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof comprising preparing a pharmaceutical agent with a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof for use in reducing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin.

18. (previously presented): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is at least one compound selected from a γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester and a δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

19. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 15, wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is ~~at least one compound selected from a γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester and a δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.~~

20. (previously presented): The method according to Claim 19, characterized in that the γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a d- γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

21. (previously presented): The method according to Claim 15, characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

22. (previously presented): The method according to Claim 21, characterized in that the δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a d- δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

23. (previously presented): The method according to Claim 15, characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is tocopherol dimethylglycine ester.

24. (previously presented): The method according to Claim 15, characterized in that the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a salt of an organic acid or an inorganic acid.

25. (previously presented): The method according to Claim 24, wherein the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester is hydrochloride.

26. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 15, wherein an added amount of the tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or the salt thereof ranges from ~~0.1~~ 2.0 to 10% by mass.